The North Yakima Conservation District has continued to build upon its 2001 activities and projects with a fully diverse and successful 2002 district program. The NYCD program continues to address local natural resource problems and issues that effect our community. The activities and projects listed represent the core of the 2002 North Yakima Conservation District program.

The following descriptions detail North Yakima Conservation District's 2002 district programs, and many of the accomplishments of those projects.

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES PROGRAM
2002-2003

The North Yakima Conservation District is promoting a new Program that's designed to provide technical and financial assistance in areas recognized as Salmon Critical Basins. The purpose of this Program is to improve the irrigation efficiencies of water right holders by implementing Best Management Practices. When those water efficiencies are realized a portion of the water saved is put into the State's "Trust Water" Program for the beneficial use of instream flow. Landowners are allowed to choose the length of time and amount of saved water put into the "Trust". The "Trust" Program then protects the landowner water right while the BMP provides the landowner with the ability to be a good steward of the resource.

YAKIMA BASIN TRIBUTARY ACCESS AND HABITAT PROGRAM
2002-2004

The Yakima Basin Tributary Access and Habitat Program was developed to satisfy the continuing need to screen diversions and remove physical barriers to fish passage in Yakima River tributaries. The Strategic Plan that was developed provides the framework to identify and implement fish access projects and will compliment other fish enhancement activities in the Basin. The YBTAHP is designed to screen unscreened diversions, provide fish passage at man-made barriers and provide assistance in improving water quality, reliability and stream habitat. In this Program, NYCD is part of the "Core Team" which directs the overall Program for the Basin. NYCD is also a "tributary team leader". The tributary team leader is responsible for putting together and facilitating Technical Work Groups on a tributary by tributary basis to evaluate stream assessments and prioritize potential implementation projects utilizing Best Available Science. As a Tributary Team Leader, NYCD will also do stream assessments and make landowner contacts so that the program leads to implementation and Salmon Recovery.

MOXEE DRAIN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE BMP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT
1994-2002

Started in 1994, this Project addresses the non-point source pollution problem of the Moxee Drain and it's impacts upon the Yakima River. This Project uses a multi-entity approach to solve the Drains' impacts and provides adequate protection of the resource base. Project emphasis is directed at protecting the 7500 acres of furrow irrigated hop ground that causes approximately 95% of the non-point source pollution problem associated with the Moxee Drain.

Project highlights include:

- Reducing sediment loads from their historical levels (1974-1981) of **43.0** tons per day during the irrigation season to **4.1** tons per day in 2001 (9.4 t/d in 2000, 14.3 t/d in 1999, 17.9 t/d in 1998).
- Conversion of 85% or 6271 acres from furrow irrigated lands to drip irrigation systems. (spring 2001 inventory data). The remaining 1096 acres have been contracted and will be implemented by 2003.
- 100% landowner participation. All of the landowners that utilize furrow irrigation are participating in NYCD's Project.

- This Project has utilized $2,570,840 in state and federal cost-share, and as a result has leveraged approximately $6,269,560 from the local landowner, which clearly demonstrates the value of incentive programs directed at on-farm conservation.

The success of this Project is the result of many entities and programs being brought together by NYCD to address a resource issue with local landowners in a win-win scenario.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROGRAM
2000-2002

North Yakima Conservation District has initiated a Riparian Restoration program intended to provide technical and financial assistance to local landowners in an effort to begin implementing Salmon Recovery activities. As a result of ESA issues NYCD is utilizing funding from the Conservation Commission to provide technical assistance, project administration, and coordination. NYCD is currently complimenting this Project with implementation funding through a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD GRANT
BUCHANAN RANCH 2001-2005

North Yakima Conservation District has entered into a MOA with the Bureau of Reclamation to implement a comprehensive restoration plan on 290 acres along a 2-mile stretch of Wenas Creek at the Yakima River. This plan will be implemented with funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. This project will restore floodplain function, stabilize streambanks, create stream buffers and provide valuable salmon and resident fish rearing habitat. This project will also serve as a catalyst for other restoration and education projects in the Wenas Watershed.

NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
1995-Present

This on-going District Program provides a wide variety of information and educational resources. NYCD provides in class presentation as well as field trip related experiences to local schools. NYCD has established several scholarships for continued education. Additionally NYCD's I&E program reaches the general public through participation at Central Washington State Fair, workshops and expositions. The objective of this Program is to provide information and education related to all natural resource protection issues of the NYCD.

NYCD'S WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM
1998-Present

NYCD with funding from the Department of Ecology has established a water quality-monitoring program for the entire District. The program is designed to establish baseline data on the hundreds of stream miles within the District. By monitoring streams NYCD will be able to identify and target specific areas of water quality concern with implementation programs. This program currently monitors the Ahtanum Creek, Wide Hollow Creek, Cowiche Creek and Wenas Creek Watersheds. The program monitors water quality for temperature, turbidity, total suspended solids, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen.